

1.(Currently Amended) A trigger mechanism for at least two fluorescent tubes connected to a common transformer circuit, comprising:

a backlight control circuit that receives a first current signal representative of the current flowing through a first fluorescent tube, and a second current signal representative of the current flowing through a second fluorescent tube, ~~and adjustably sets a lamp current dependent upon whether the trigger mechanism is operating in day mode or night mode;~~

a switch that is configured and arranged to selectively shunt the outputs of the first and second tubes, where ~~when in the night mode the switch is in a first position closed and the first and second current signals are shunted together and can be detected by the backlight control circuit jointly, and when the switch is in a second position the first and second current signals are not shunted together and in the day mode the switch is open and the first and second current~~ signal are detected by the backlight control circuit separately from each other.

2.(Cancelled)

3.(Previously Presented) The trigger mechanism of claim 1, where the backlight control circuit upon detecting a drop below a minimum current value, reduces the lamp current and initiates a burst mode to produce an ignition.

4.(Currently Amended) The trigger mechanism of claim 1, where the control circuit is located within an integrated circuit that provides a PWM output signal to a MOSFET that provides, via a ~~the~~ common transformer circuit, a lamp current signal that is split to provide the

first and second current signals.

5.(Currently Amended) A fluorescent tube driver circuit, comprising:

a transformer network that provides a lamp current signal that is split to a first current signal and a second current signal;

a first current path that receives the first current signal, and includes a first ballast serially connected to a high voltage side of a first fluorescent tube;

a second current path that receives the second current signal and is electrically parallel to the first current path, and includes a second ballast serially connected to a high voltage side of a second fluorescent tube;

a switch that in a first position shunts the first and second current signals at a low voltage side of the first and second fluorescent tubes;

a backlight controller trigger mechanism, which includes a control circuit that receives the first current signal and the second current signal, ~~in a day operating mode the control circuit receives each of the first and second current signals and sets the value of the lamp current signal, and in a night operating mode receives the first and second current signals that have been coupled together while operating in the night operating mode.~~

6.(Cancelled)

7.(Cancelled)

8.(Cancelled)

9.(Currently Amended) The fluorescent tube drive circuit of claim 58, where the switch comprises a semiconductor switch.

10.(Currently Amended) The fluorescent tube drive circuit of claim 58, where the control circuit comprises a dual cold cathode fluorescent lamp backlight inverter integrated circuit.

11.(Previously Presented) The fluorescent tube drive circuit of claim 9, where the control circuit comprises a LT1768 integrated circuit.

12.(Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display backlight control circuit, comprising:

- a transformer network that provides a lamp current signal that is split to a first current signal and a second current signal;
- a first current path that receives the first current signal, and includes a first ballast serially connected to a high voltage side of a first fluorescent lamp;
- a second current path that receives the second current signal and is electrically parallel to the first current path, and includes a second ballast serially connected to a high voltage side of a second fluorescent lamp;
- double pole single throw semiconductor switch that in a first position shunts the first and second current signals at a low voltage side of the first and second fluorescent tubes; and
- a backlight controller trigger mechanism that ~~in a day operating mode circuit~~ receives each of the first and second current signals and sets the value of the lamp current signal, ~~and in a~~

~~night operating mode receives the first and second current signals that have been coupled together.~~

13.(Cancelled)

14.(Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display backlight control circuit of claim 12~~13~~, where the control circuit comprises a dual cold cathode fluorescent lamp backlight inverter integrated circuit.

15.(Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display backlight control circuit of claim 14, where the control circuit comprises a LT1768 integrated circuit.